REMARKS

Applicants that the Examiner, Mr. Fick, for his courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application in an interview conducted August 8, 2007. As indicated in the Interview Summary (Paper No. 882007), during the interview, counsel and the Examiner discussed a proposed amendment of Claim 1. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the proposed amendment appears to distinguish over the cited prior art (Ho et al, Glenn et al and Pollard). By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have adopted the proposal as discussed during the interview, except that the additional phrase "band-shaped" has been added to the recitation of shapes of the marginal area in the next to the last paragraph of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and therefore all claims which remain of record in this application, distinguish over the cited references, and are allowable.

During the interview, counsel pointed out that the "interconnect construction" 90 as depicted in Figures 5, 6 and 7 of the Pollard reference differs from the present invention in that, as noted at Column 5, lines 59-67, and especially, lines 64-67, in the Pollard structure, the first and second spaced apart mounting flanges 96, 98 are separate pieces, with the stress relief member 100 being "fixed at its opposite ends [that is, sides], respectively, to the mounting flanges 96 and 98." As defined in amended Claim 1, the solar cell according to the invention comprises a metallic strip, with the first and second connection

areas and the centrally situated compensation section being formed integrally with each other as a part of the metallic strip. Moreover, Claim 1 also recites that the compensation area includes a single central opening in a metallic strip, which is intermediate the first and second connection areas, and is delimited by a surrounding marginal area by of the metallic strip, which has one of several specified shapes. Finally, Claim 1 further recites that the first and second connection areas and the compensation area comprise a unitary continuous segment of the metallic strip.

The foregoing features of the invention are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references.

As discussed during the interview, the combination of a unitary construction of the solar cell connector as part of a monolithic metallic strip, together with the structure of the centrally situated compensation section, having a single central opening which is intermediate the first and second connection areas and is delimited by the surrounding marginal area of the metallic strip yields a connector which is easy to manufacture, while at the same time providing a structure which is robust, and is able to affectively compensate for mechanical, thermomechanical and other tensions in a solar cell array.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If

there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010408.52444US).

Respectfully submitted,

Gary R. Edwards
Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
GRE:kms
3988490_1